**Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27**

**2022 Washington State Legislature**

**Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire**

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***Please fill out this questionnaire, save as a PDF, and send it back info@iaff27.org.***

***Only candidates who complete this questionnaire will be considered for an endorsement from the Seattle Fire Fighters Union, IAFF Local 27.***

1. **Contact Information**

Candidate name:

Candidate cell phone:

Position sought:

Campaign committee name:

Campaign committee address:

Candidate email address:

Campaign website address:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Key campaign staff & contact info:

1. **Campaign Questions**

1. Briefly describe your background and why you have decided to run for election/re-election to the Washington Legislature. Include any history that you have with unions and labor.
2. Have you ever run for or held an elected office? Which office(s)?
3. Have you received the endorsement of Seattle Fire Fighters Union, IAFF Local 27 or from any other IAFF Locals in your current or previous campaigns? Please list.

1. Please list any other labor endorsements for your current campaign.
2. What is your campaign fundraising goal?
3. Why are you in the best position to win this race? Briefly describe your path to victory.
4. If endorsed by Seattle Fire Fighters, how will you utilize this endorsement for your campaign?
5. **Legislative Priorities**
6. What will your legislative priorities be?
7. What committees are you interested in serving on?
8. What public safety issues will you focus on?
9. What labor issues will you focus on?
10. **Seattle Fire Fighter Issues** 
    1. The global pandemic highlighted the critical need to maintain fully staffed fire departments in our local communities. Here in Seattle, our fire fighters led the way in providing COVID testing and free vaccinations while still responding to our normal emergency calls for service. Having enough fire fighters on duty at all times is essential to responding quickly to life saving emergencies.

**If elected, will you support state funding that helps maintain full staffing levels for municipal fire departments, including the Seattle Fire Department?**

* 1. Fire fighting is a dangerous, labor-intensive, and physically demanding job that requires a high degree of skill and efficiency. Fire fighters are typically unable to work effectively beyond their mid-fifties. Furthermore, fire fighters are more susceptible to certain types of cancers. More than 1/3 of fire fighters hired in Seattle before 1977 have developed cancer. Fire fighters are also 10-100 times as likely as the general public to have a heart attack. In addition, mental health issues, including suicide, have a devastating impact on fire fighters.

Medicare coverage does not begin until 65. Therefore, after decades of dedicated public service, most Seattle Fire Fighters must provide their own medical coverage for up to 14 years after retirement, creating a significant financial impact at a time when fire fighter’s health is at risk.

**If elected, will you support efforts to provide for the health and security of fire fighters before and after retirement?**

* 1. Demands on first responders continue to increase. Here in Seattle, our fire fighters are busier than ever and our police department is struggling to maintain staffing levels. Meanwhile, residents throughout Seattle and the State of Washington are demanding safe streets and an increase in public safety.

**If elected, will you oppose legislation that will undermine or reduce public safety?**

* 1. The Seattle Fire Department’s 911 call volume continues to rise each year and our ability to respond quickly and effectively to life-threatening emergencies is being compromised. The growing number of vulnerable Seattle residents, including the homeless, people with mental health issues, and people with drug and alcohol addictions, are inundating Seattle’s fire fighters with 911 calls that are not acute emergencies, although they are in need of help. 911 is oftentimes the primary source of medical care for some of these populations. When frontline fire fighters respond to these calls, they are no longer available for more time-sensitive critical emergencies.

**If elected, will you work with local government leaders to provide resources for a regional approach to address our homelessness crisis?**

* 1. On the job stresses have a direct link to a high rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide for fire fighters and EMTs. Research has shown that fire fighters have a higher rate of PTSD than the general population and we have lost Seattle Fire Fighters due to suicide.

**If elected, will you support efforts, resources, and funding for programs to safeguard the mental and emotional health of fire fighters?**

* 1. Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27 has multiple fire fighters who have sustained injuries due to being assaulted by citizens while providing emergency care. Assaults on all first responders, including fire fighters and paramedics, have been escalating over the last couple of years. In addition, citizens who assault a fire fighter or paramedic are oftentimes not held accountable and charged appropriately for these crimes.

**If elected, can we count on you to support legislation that sends a strong message that assaulting fire fighters will not be tolerated in the State of Washington?**

* 1. Although we have a close working relationship, Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27 is not a member of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF).

**If elected, will you commit to meeting with and responding to Local 27 in a timely manner to discuss issues of concern to Seattle Fire Fighters, and ensure that our concerns and perspectives are valued and incorporated into a decision-making process?**